

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners Lick, McDonald, Schaetzl, Stephens

EXCUSED: Commissioner Baker

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair McDonald called the work session to order at 6:04 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Voice vote.
Motion passed.

3. 2017 Grant Proposals

In February, the Park Commission voted to begin completing grant applications for two projects: Restroom Building at Harris Nature Center; and Pickleball courts, playground and parking lot at Towner Road Park. Since then, the bid opening occurred for construction of Towner Road Park with very favorable results. Staff is recommending that the pickleball courts be awarded with the construction contract. Staff is now recommending the following projects for grant consideration in 2017:

2017 GRANT APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Harris Nature Center – Pavilion

This project proposes to construct a pavilion near the Harris Nature Center building in Meridian Riverfront Park. The pavilion may include an upper level that will provide opportunity for wildlife observation and star gazing. A pavilion will serve as a vital amenity along the recently established Red Cedar Water Trail

2. Harris Nature Center – Waterless Restroom

The Harris Nature Center staff have been requesting an outdoor restroom for many years to accommodate the large number of visitors. Park restrooms are also identified and supported in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Staff is researching the different types of restroom building options.

Grant applications are due to the DNR by April 1, 2017 therefore, the public hearing will need to take place during the March 14, 2017 regular meeting of the Park Commission.

4. Vernal Pool Mapping

Director Maisner reported Yu Man Lee presented this project to the Land Preservation Board about land areas that retain water but later dry out and they want to map what is living in the area. The Michigan Natural Features Inventory staff wants to map these areas in township. The Land Preservation Advisory Board approved \$2,500 to proceed with mapping and volunteer training. For the park areas, Staff is recommending awarding \$500 for mapping services in our parks.

5. 5 - Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2017-2021

Director Maisner reported Doug Schultz will be making the presentation during the regular meeting and later in the meeting a resolution of approval is available for consideration. Staff has received a few items of communication that were included in the January meeting packet and will be acknowledged during the public hearing. Staff believe an important element is to implement placemaking ideas to make our parks fun with unique features.

Discussion:

- Want to elicit memories and thoughts such as a re-creation of Stonehenge, signage with its history
- Unique areas to sit like an area with tall pencils to do journaling in
- Suggest taking pictures of unique features or ideas to share with the Parks and Recreation Department and Park Commission.
- Use a parking space to create a bike parking area during warm weather
- Giant Adirondack chairs for adults to sit in
- Dog shape or bone shape bike rack at our dog park
- Referenced movie "Up" having stationery with balloons with house structure, would appeal to all ages, clear glass balloons

6. Friend of the Park Ceremony in March

Commissioners discussed the ceremony in March, will have hotdogs and fixings like last year followed by a regular meeting with the public hearing on the grants. Gift suggestions such as a volunteer vest as an identifier working in the parks or a rain coat to every day, window slick, t-shirts (check with Mya at DNR). Volunteers love to talk about what they do in the park.

7. Comments

None

8. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair McDonald adjourned the work session at 6:55 pm.